THE NEW ORLEANS DAILY BEE.
DUPUOY & LISET, Publishers,
No. 79 Chartres Street.
TERMS OF THE BEE:
Terms of Subscription—Daily, per annum, in advance, $10; half-yearly, $5; quarterly, $3.
Price of the papers—Single copies, 10 cents.
The Semi-Weekly is published every Thursday and Saturday. Subscription, $5 per annum, invariably in advance.
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NEW ORLEANS:
THURSDAY MORNING, FEB. 18, 1869.

## THE CITY COUNCIL EXCITED.

Mr. Shields, of the Board of Aldermen, at their meeting on Tuesday night last, introduced a resolution, which was adopted by both Boards, that a joint Committee of two from the Upper Board and three from the Lower Board be appointed, to examine into the charges made by the *Picayune*, and ourselves, concerning alleged negotiations and combinations with the Governor and other parties to control and influence legislation to the detriment of the public interests.

This inquiry is in reference to the belief expressed by the *Picayune* and this journal that Mr. Ray's substitute for the Property Holders Charter was intended merely as a means of defeating that charter, and had been instigated by certain persons connected with the City Government, or friends of that government who were desirous that it should not be super-seded.

We have no objection to this investigation, and hope it will be thorough, but we can give the committee no assistance ourselves. If they are really desirous of ascertaining the facts concerning these alleged negotiations, we are disposed to think they can easily be brought home to the parties engaged, but would suggest that editors of newspapers are not the sources from whence this information should be sought. It would, perhaps, be difficult for the members of the City Council to find a precedent for this attempt to interrogate the press as to its observations upon matters of public interest.

Were we to be restrained from commenting upon legislation and the means adopted by parties interested in its enactment by fear of offending them, we should be shorn of a large portion of the influence which an independent press should exercise in the public behalf. We hope the members of the City Council will see the propriety of our being left perfectly free to criticise legislation and the means employed by its friends and authors to have it adopted, as we think fit. We are free to say that is our conception of duty, and we cannot consent that any inquisition shall be held over us in the fearless discharge of that duty. Information on such subjects communicated to us is used for the public benefit, and when received confidentially the channels through which it comes ought not to be and will not be divulged.

Writers for the public press are or ought to be impersonal, and known only by their writings. They would have but a low sense of the dignity of their calling if they submitted to be questioned touching their observations upon public affairs.

Newspaper Editors should be the last to be enquired of as to such matters. As a general rule they only see the foreprints of the wire-work of politicians and are rarely permitted to know who the parties are, employed to engineer those schemes or the precise nature and extent of the inducements given for the influence of those relied upon to carry them through.

### Who Are the Corrupt Legislators?

A letter appeared in the *Crescent* of Tuesday last, under the caption of "Corrupt Affiliations with Radicals," dated "Legislative Hall of the State of Louisiana," and signed "Claiborne Parish." We are far from wrong in attributing the authorship to Mr. Pratt, member of the House of Representatives from that parish, whom we are happy to recognize as one of the few good and faithful members of that body. We publish this letter below, because we consider it fully sustains the accusations which have been made in this and the other journals of the city and State touching the corruption of a class of those who represent us in the Legislature. We wish to do injustice to no man. It is impossible for us to say who are the members whose loins are to the charges of corruption which have been made. If we knew who they were who had accepted bribes, we should hesitate to single them out by name. It is enough for us to warn the public, whose duty it is to keep an eye upon their servants, that such practices are in vogue. Those who take bribes are very careful to do it in such a manner as to escape detection.

### CORRUPT AFFILIATIONS WITH RADICALS.

*Legislative Hall of the State of Louisiana, February 15, 1869.*

*Ed Crescent.* Dear Sir —Our attention has of late, been called to several articles that have appeared in some of the journals of the city, censuring the action of the Democratic members of the Legislature and preferring the most inordinate charges of venality and corruption against them. We have listened quietly to these charges from the floor of the house, and to the newspapers of the city would separate the "tares from the thieves" and give to those men, who have been true to principle and stood aloof from the corrupting influences that have characterized the action of the Legislature and disgraced the annals of the State, the "meed of praise their fidelity deserves." Feeling that a longer reticence on our part would be a tacit admission of our guilt, we have concluded to ask a small space in the columns of your valuable journal to vindicate our reputations from the assertions that have been brought against them, and place ourselves correctly before the people of the State.

That there are "rings" formed in both Houses of the Legislature for the sole and express purpose of blackmailing the people and plundering the treasury of the State, is, probably, a lamentable and humiliating fact. That there are men in the parties engaged in this disgraceful proceeding—men who would "sell their birthright for a mess of pottage"—may also be true, but that all of the members of the Legislature are engaged in this conspiracy against the interests of the people is an unwarranted assertion on the part of the papers of the city. We are loth to admit that the honest Democrats are the exception and not the rule, but we contend that if there is one true man he should have the credit his conduct deserves.

We simply ask "fair play," and that every man shall stand by the record he has made. Let the press, whose duty it is to watch over the actions of public servants, point out the evil doers and bring them before the bar of public opinion, and when the verdict of "guilty" is rendered, let them be consigned into the penalty, where the widow of Apperdaine and Dishonor can rest upon their names forever.

CLAIBORNE PARISH.

CIGARS—Mr. F Soares, of No. 13 Commerce street, between Rampart and St. Claude streets in Third District, invites public attention to day, through our advertising columns, to his stock of cigars, which are manufactured at his establishment, from the best Vuelta de Abajo tobacco. He has 350,000 on hand; also a large selection of mixed and domestic cigars.

SLATER.—Messrs. Bridge & Son, agents, 28 Gravier street, announce to-day, through our advertising columns, that they keep on hand a full supply of all sizes of the finest quality of dark blue roofing slates, from the Pen Argyl quarry of the Pennsylvania Slate Company. The attention of slaters and the building trade is called to the superior quality of these slates, which are recommended by the agents to be equal to the English slates and sold by them at lower prices. They solicit a trial of them.

FLOUR.—Messrs. John W. Norris & Co., 27 Canal street, announce to-day, through our advertising columns, that they have for sale, at manufacturer's prices, the following description of flour: 1000 cast valley; 1000 improved Avery; 2000 steel cotton sweeps and scrapers; 2000 "Calhoun and Peacock." They have also plow points and plow castings.

NOYES' MAMMOTH CIRCUS.—For positively three days only, C. W. Noyes Mammoth Crescent City Circus is announced to appear at Tivoli Circle, beginning Monday the 22d, and ending Wednesday the 24th. There will be a noon and a night performance each day, the doors for the first opening at 11 A. M., and for the latter at 6½ P. M. We are promised a carnival of the good old features of the circus which used to delight persons of all ages and respectability. The troupe, the undersigned consists of thirty male and female artists of high reputation. See the announcement of the proprietor in another column.

THE FRENCH OPERA. — The performance announced for this evening is that of "Roland à Roncevaux," a grand opera in four acts by Halevy. The cast will be the same as before.

ARRIVAL OF THE BIENVILLE.—The passenger ship Bienville, Capt. Baker, arrived Tuesday morning last, from New York 9th inst., via Havana 12th, with a full freight and the following general passengers:

From New York—J Gilmore, W F de Gray, Miss Fanny Hazard—Sobel Gutman & Co, Hyman & Co, A Ward and wife, Mrs Dr Hall, Mrs Mary Hall, Mrs Mar, Gilmore, Miss Taylor, Lee Lee and two children, Mrs Dr Valley, Mrs Dr Fernandez, F Brown and wife, Mrs Brown and child, Miss Brown, Miss Lee, Miss Cunningham, Mrs Wells, Master W Lee, Mrs D R Hall, Mrs Bridget W Lee, Mrs D R Hall, Mrs Bridget W Lee, Mrs D R Hall, Mrs Bridget